

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093638

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TAGS, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MARQUIS CHILDS EDITORIAL, TUESDAY, MAY 7, WASHINGTON POST HEADLINED "DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY PARALLELS"

2. JUST 20 YEARS AGO THIS NATION WAS FACED WITH A SITUATION HAVING A STRIKING PARALLEL WITH THE PRESENT. AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WAS IN A DELICATE AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH A WORLD WAR AS A POSSIBLE RESULT OF FAILURE. AT THE SAME TIME THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WAS ALMOST TOTALLY ABSORBED IN A BITTER DOMESTIC QUARREL AND, THEREFORE, PAYING LITTLE HEED TO WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING AROUND THE CONFERENCE TABLE AT GENEVA.

3. IN 1954 SEN. JOSEPH MCCARTHY WAS CHALLENGING THE ARMY IN TELEVISED HEARINGS THAT HELD A MASS AUDIENCE SPELLBOUND. CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES FLEW BACK AND FORTH AS THE SEN-
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PAGE 02 STATE 093638

ATOR AND HIS MINIONS SOUGHT TO DISCREDIT HIGH CIVILIAN OFFI-

CIALS. MEANWHILE, AT THE INDOCHINA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA THE FRENCH WERE WARNING THAT THEY WERE CLOSE TO THE END AND WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW UNLESS SOME FORMULA FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM COULD BE FOUND. SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN FOSTER DULLES WAS ARGUING FOR INTERVENTION BY THE

WESTERN ALLIES TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM. BACK HOME ALL THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING ON A DISTANT PLANET SO FAR AS ANY ATTENTION WAS GIVEN THE DIPLOMATIC SEE-SAW.

4. TODAY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS ENGAGED IN A HAZARDOUS NEGOTIATION IN THE MIDEAST. AS HE SHUTTLES BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF HIS MISSION CAN DETERMINE WHETHER THE FIGHTING ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS ESCALATES OR WHETHER THE SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES DISENGAGE AND AT LEAST A TEMPORARY PEACE DESCENDS ON THAT TRAGIC LAND.

5. THE PARALLEL IS, OF COURSE, FAR FROM EXACT. TWENTY YEARS AGO THE LURID HEARINGS INVOLVED THE FATE OF A FEW OFFICIALS--ALTHOUGH WHAT MCCARTHY CHALLENGED WAS THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT, AND NOT LONG AFTERWARD HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE VOTED TO CENSURE HIM, AN ACTION THAT HAD OCCURRED ONLY RARELY.

6. TODAY IT IS A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHO STANDS BEFORE THE BAR OF PUBLIC OPINION. IN THOUSAND OF PAGES OF NEWS PRINT AND HOURS OF TELEVISION TIME, THE SORDID RECORD OF WHITE HOUSE WHEELING AND DEALING ON THE LEVEL OF A COOK COUNTY WARD BOSS IS BEFORE THE PUBLIC VIEW. IT IS HARDLY AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THE OUTCOME IS MAKE-OR-BREAK FOR THE MORAL INTEGRITY OF THE NATION.

7. THE PARALLEL FALLS SHORT IN ANOTHER CONTEXT. DULLES WAS INITIALLY CONTENDING FOR INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM THAT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE ENLARGED THE WAR AND IN ANY EVENT WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IT. THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AT GENEVA WORKED DESPERATELY AND, IN THE END, SUCCESSFULLY FOR A FORMULA ENDING THE FIGHTING AND CREATING TWO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 093638

VIETNAMS. THIS WAS ONLY A PAUSE FOR THE SUBSEQUENT MASSIVE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT THAT WAS TO COST 50,000 LIVES.

8. SECRETARY KISSINGER, BY HIS EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS, HAS MADE A LARGE ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDEAST. HE HAS WON THE CONFIDENCE--YES; THE FRIENDSHIP--OF PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT OF EGYPT. IF HE CAN SUSTAIN THE TRUST IN HIS MOTIVE IN AN ISRAEL TORN BY INTERNAL STRIFE HE MAY OVER-

COME THE LAST OBSTACLE.

9. BUT THAT, IT MUST BE FACED, IS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE.
IN THE ELEGANT LANGUAGE OF THE WHITE HOUSE SYRIA IS A
CAN OF WORMS. EXPLOSIVE FORCES CAN DESTROY WHAT IS

APPARENTLY THE INTENTION OF PRESIDENT ASSAD TO REACH A
TEMPORARY SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO THE REAL STRUGGLE WHICH
WILL COME OVER TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. THOSE FORCES COULD
PERCIPITATE A RENEWAL OF FULL SCALE WAR WITH CONSE-
QUENCES FAR MORE DEVASTATING THAN LAST FALL.

10. ALL THIS IS REALLY BY WAY OF SAYING WE CANNOT FOR-
GET OUR MAN IN THE MIDEAST. WITH SO MUCH TURNING ON THE
OUTCOME OF HIS MISSION, HE DESERVES UNDERSTANDING, COM-
PASSION AND AT LEAST A LITTLE ATTENTION.

11. WE SHOULD KNOW IN A FEW WEEKS WHICH WAY THE IMPEACH-
MENT PROCEEDING IS TO GO. IT IS A PROCESS DULY DECREED
IN THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF FEDERAL
OFFICERS HIGH AND LOW. WHETHER IT GOES FOR OR AGAINST
THE PRESIDENT, THE NATION WILL SURVIVE.

12. BUT IF KISSINGER FAILS AND A NEW WAR BREAKS OUT IN
THE MIDEAST, NOT ONLY WE BUT OUR CHILDREN MAY NOT KNOW
THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME. FORTUNATELY THE SECRETARY OF
STATE HAS AN ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF AUTONOMY. IT
CORRESPONDS TO THE DIFFICULTY AND DELICACY OF THE PUZZLE
HE IS TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER. (END TEXT) RUSH

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